

ERICD Board Meeting

April 9, 2013

7:00 PM

Interim Chairman Emerson Wildes called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm.

Present were: Directors: Emerson Wildes, Ron Mucci, Richard Hart, and Suzanne Hourihan; District Manager: Jessica Blackledge; NRCS: Melissa Hayden; RISCC: Ramona LeBlanc, Debra Aiello, Jill Osgood.

I. Minutes: A motion was made to accept minutes with changes; Emerson/ Ron: unanimous.

II. Financial Report: A motion was made to accept the February Financials; Emerson/ Suzanne. A motion was made to accept the March Financials; Suzanne/Ron. A motion was made to transfer \$5000.00 to Bank of Newport from Sovereign Bank; Dick/Suzanne.

III. NRCS Report:

A. Regional Equity money was received to fund round 2 EQIP applications.

B. EQIP and AMA round 3 applications will be ranked by April 19.

C. A potential restoration project was discussed with the Town of Warren to restore a stream bank to more natural conditions between Main Street and Warren Blvd.

IV. Old Business:

A. Election of Chair to ERICD:

1. Walter appointed Emerson to form a committee to come up with a new chairman of ERICD board; Emerson will chair the meeting in the

interim.

B. Rain Barrel: No Report

C. Board Recruitment:

- 1. Steve resigned as of April 1st; he is stepping down as associate director.**
- 2. Jessica has potential associate director nominees in mind**
- 3. Emerson recommended getting others to attend the meetings.**
- 4. Ron suggested someone with a background in business as well as agriculture.**
- 5. Emerson suggested the Board notify the Conservation Committees concerning new members.**
- 6. Jessica suggested developing a recruitment plan for the directors.**

D. Other:

- 1. A letter was sent to ERICD Board from the Town of Barrington in reply to their funding request. Jessie will be coming up with a plan to present to the town by April 13th and welcomes input from the Board.**

2. VI. Reports:

A. District Manager:

- 1. DEM will be funding the Geese Project through December 2014.**
- 2. Jessie has been working with DEM, Roger Williams Park and other partners to develop a more detailed work plan.**
- 3. NRCS Conservation Open House and High Tunnel Tour were held at the Norman Bird Sanctuary on Saturday, April 6, 2013 from 10-12 with a great turnout. Jessie will follow up with attendees for assistance.**

4. Jessie is assisting the RISCC in organizing the list of landowners currently enrolled in FFOS with a Farmland Designation in order to efficiently notify current enrollees that they must have a current Conservation Plan as part of the FFOS Program requirements.

5. Jessie reported that the total in the petty cash account balance is 203.39.

B. Chair:

C. Directors:

1. Dick reported that he assisted a homeowner with pruning blueberry plants.

2. Ron reported that he has been assisting homeowners with testing soil samples.

3. Suzanne attended the High Tunnel Tour and was very pleased with the results.

4. Emerson attended RISCC meeting and Ag Council meeting.

D. RISCC:

1. Silver Creek project -CD designed plan for flooding at Mt Hope High School, anticipated to have a final component.

2. The last of the four Small Forestry workshops was held on March 23th. The workshops were very well attended reaching a new target audience.

3. The FFOS letter to current Farm enrollees is being reviewed by DEM. A review of FFOS process and FAQ's will be held after the May 8th RISCC meeting.

4. Two draft flyers were developed, a final version along with a District introductory pamphlet is anticipated to be complete by the

May RISCC meeting; Ramona will send out electronic copies to board members.

A motion was made to end the meeting at 9:15 Emerson/Dick: unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 9:15.

The next meeting will be held on May 14, 2013.